# Donald Trump urges UK to prioritise North Sea oil over wind energy amid trade talks



Donald Trump has reignited a familiar controversy by urging the UK to discard what he terms "unsightly windmills" while promoting fossil fuel extraction from the North Sea as a more viable energy solution. Speaking on his platform Truth Social, Trump hailed a recently negotiated trade agreement with the UK government, brokered with Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, as mutually beneficial. He argued that the UK could significantly reduce energy costs and enhance energy security by focusing on oil drilling in the North Sea, proposing Aberdeen as a central hub for these activities.

Trump's comments allude to the UK's complex energy landscape. Despite the country’s historic reliance on North Sea oil, production has plummeted from 4.5 million barrels a day in 1999 to about 1.3 million today. In contrast, the offshore wind sector has seen robust growth, with ambitious projects like Dogger Bank set to power six million homes. The UK plans to quadruple its offshore wind capacity to 60 gigawatts by 2030, reflecting its commitment to transitioning towards renewable energy.

Environmental advocates have characterised Trump's push for increased fossil fuel production as dangerously regressive. Patrick Harvie, co-leader of the Scottish Green Party, condemned Trump’s remarks, labelling them a distraction from urgent climate action. He emphasised that the volatility in household energy bills stems largely from overreliance on fossil fuels, stressing the need to reduce fossil fuel consumption and increase investments in cleaner energy projects. Harvie posited that Scotland’s thriving renewable sector should enable households to benefit financially, a sentiment echoed by various climate experts who warn against reverting to fossil fuels.

The tension between fossil fuel advocacy and renewable energy expansion reflects a wider debate within UK energy policy. Trump's insistence on increasing oil extraction comes in the wake of the UK government’s gradual shift away from fossil fuel dependencies towards a greener economy. Many UK officials and environmental groups have rebutted Trump’s assertions, maintaining that a steadfast commitment to reducing carbon emissions is essential for both climatic stability and energy independence.

In a broader context, Trump’s remarks resonate with his historical critiques of environmental policies, which he often frames as detrimental to economic growth. His call to "open up" the North Sea and diminish wind energy projects has drawn ire for its apparent disregard for existing climate commitments and the potential repercussions on public health, wildlife, and long-term energy sustainability.

As energy prices continue to fluctuate, the discourse surrounding energy generation in the UK remains urgent. The recent announcement by Ofgem indicating a decrease in the energy price cap, dropping from £1,849 to £1,720 per household, underscores the volatility and intricacies faced by consumers and policymakers alike. However, as public attention shifts towards sustainable solutions, the challenge will lie in finding a balanced and effective approach to policy that sustains both economic and environmental priorities.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/uk-should-rid-unsightly-windmills-35278282), [[4]](https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/national/article/donald-trump-says-uk-s-retreat-from-north-sea-oil-and-gas-is-a-big-mistake-124414/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/fall-uk-north-sea-oil-rise-offshore-wind-2025-01-03/), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/donald-trump-says-uk-s-retreat-from-north-sea-oil-and-gas-is-a-big-mistake-b1202836.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry), [[6]](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-01-04/trump-slams-uk-s-very-big-mistake-on-north-sea-energy-policy)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry), [[7]](https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/north-sea/565021/trump-urges-uk-to-open-up-the-north-sea-and-get-rid-of-windmills/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/uk-should-rid-unsightly-windmills-35278282), [[6]](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-01-04/trump-slams-uk-s-very-big-mistake-on-north-sea-energy-policy)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.insider.co.uk/news/uk-should-rid-unsightly-windmills-35278282> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/fall-uk-north-sea-oil-rise-offshore-wind-2025-01-03/> - This Reuters article discusses the decline in UK North Sea oil production and the rise of offshore wind energy. It highlights that North Sea oil production has decreased from 4.5 million barrels of oil equivalent per day in 1999 to about 1.3 million today. In contrast, offshore wind energy is expanding, with projects like Dogger Bank aiming to produce enough electricity to power 6 million homes. The UK plans to quadruple its offshore wind capacity to 60 GW by 2030.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry> - The Guardian reports on President-elect Donald Trump's criticism of the UK's energy policies, particularly the move away from fossil fuels. Trump described the UK's decision to increase taxes on North Sea oil and gas producers as a 'very big mistake' and urged the government to 'open up the North Sea' and 'get rid of windmills.' Environmental groups and UK officials responded, emphasizing the importance of transitioning to clean energy and adhering to climate commitments.
4. <https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/national/article/donald-trump-says-uk-s-retreat-from-north-sea-oil-and-gas-is-a-big-mistake-124414/> - This article from The Northern Scot covers President-elect Donald Trump's criticism of the UK's move away from oil and gas production. Trump stated that Britain is 'making a very big mistake' on its energy policy and urged the government to 'open up' the North Sea and 'get rid of windmills.' The piece also mentions the UK's decision to increase taxes on North Sea oil and gas producers and the government's plans to invest in renewable energy projects.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/donald-trump-says-uk-s-retreat-from-north-sea-oil-and-gas-is-a-big-mistake-b1202836.html> - The Standard reports on President-elect Donald Trump's criticism of the UK's energy policy, particularly the move away from oil and gas production. Trump described the UK's decision to increase taxes on North Sea oil and gas producers as a 'very big mistake' and urged the government to 'open up the North Sea' and 'get rid of windmills.' The article also discusses the UK's plans to invest in renewable energy projects and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
6. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-01-04/trump-slams-uk-s-very-big-mistake-on-north-sea-energy-policy> - Bloomberg reports on President-elect Donald Trump's criticism of the UK's energy policies, particularly the move away from fossil fuels. Trump called the UK's decision to increase taxes on North Sea oil and gas producers a 'very big mistake' and urged the government to 'open up the North Sea' and 'get rid of windmills.' The article also mentions the UK's plans to invest in renewable energy projects and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
7. <https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/north-sea/565021/trump-urges-uk-to-open-up-the-north-sea-and-get-rid-of-windmills/> - Energy Voice reports on President-elect Donald Trump's criticism of the UK's energy policies, particularly the move away from fossil fuels. Trump urged the UK to 'open up the North Sea' and 'get rid of windmills,' highlighting his longstanding opposition to offshore wind farms. The article also discusses the UK's plans to invest in renewable energy projects and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.